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New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs
State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners
Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee
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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Engaging in the practice of alcohol or drug counseling; licensure or certification required

This is to advise you that the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee (the "Committee") of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners began initial licensure and certification on August 1, 2004. Therefore, anyone providing alcohol or drug counseling services without a certification or license issued by the Committee is considered to be engaging in unlicensed practice and may be subject to prosecution and penalties pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25(a), unless the individual is engaged in activities set forth in N.J.S.A. 45:2D-9. Furthermore, please be advised that anyone providing alcohol or drug counseling services in a licensed facility must also be State-certified or State-licensed.

Please note that persons training to be a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) or Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor (LCADC) also come under the jurisdiction of the Committee. Regulations describing supervision requirements, as well as special provisions applicable to counselors practicing in facilities licensed by the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Addiction Services, may be found at N.J.A.C. 13:34C-1 et seq. All treatment agencies and counselors are urged to familiarize themselves with these rules.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:2D-8, licensure or certification is required in order to engage in the practice of alcohol and drug counseling. Individuals may not represent themselves or use the title of "alcoholism counselor," "alcohol counselor," "drug counselor," "alcohol and drug counselor," "alcoholism and drug counselor," "licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor," "certified alcohol and drug counselor," "substance abuse counselor," "chemical dependency counselor," or "chemical dependency supervisor," or any of the abbreviations of the above titles, unless licensed or certified under this Act, and unless the title or designation corresponds to the license or certification held by the person pursuant to the Act.

All counselors affected by this Act who have not yet made application to the Committee are required to do so immediately. Applications and other information may be obtained from our Web site at the following address: <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/medical/alcdrug.htm>

A continuing education requirement update is attached for your reference. The notice outlines the general requirements for the renewal of certification and licensure and specifically addresses the continuing education contact hour requirement for the legal standards related to the practice of alcohol and drug counseling in New Jersey.

Thank you for your assistance in advising all counselors of the requirement for licensure and certification and the continuing education requirements for renewal.

Very truly yours,

Elaine L. DeMars
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Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners
Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee
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c: Raquel Mazon Jeffers
Director
Division of Addiction Services

Attachments



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Continuing Education Requirement 2008 UPDATE

Please be reminded that a requirement of licensure/certification for the two (2) year licensure period which begins on August 1, 2008 (and for each subsequent 2 year licensure cycle) is that all State certified alcohol and drug counselors (CADCs) complete 60 contact hours of continuing education. Licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselors (LCADCs) are required to complete 40 contact hours. N.J.A.C. 13:34C-5.1 through N.J.A.C. 13:34C-5.5 provides the details for the continuing education requirement.

Those individuals with an initial certification or licensure date of August 1, 2006 through July 31, 2007 (within the first year of the initial biennial period) are required to complete 20 required contact hours for the first renewal period. Individuals certified or licensed within the second year of the initial cycle (between August 1, 2007 and July 31, 2008) are exempt from the continuing education requirement for the first renewal period only. (See N.J.A.C. 13:34C-5.2.) Continuing education credits must be earned between August 1, 2006 and July 31, 2008 in order to be counted toward requirements for the initial cycle.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:34C-5.2(d), all licensees and certificate holders are required to complete at least ***six contact hours of continuing education in legal standards related to the practice of alcohol and drug counseling during their initial biennial period***. Class schedule information for the special course, designed to develop competency in the New Jersey statute and regulations governing the practice of alcohol and drug counselors, is available at www.certbd.com ("Mandatory Renewal Legal Course"). ***In order to assure that all certificate holders and licensees complete the required course of study, the time period in which to complete the legal standards continuing education requirement was extended for one additional renewal period. Therefore, all those certified or licensed between August 1, 2004 and July 31, 2007 must complete the special legal standards course by July 31, 2008.***

Please note that the 2008/2010 (and all future) renewal applications will require a confirmation on the renewal application that the certificate holder/licensee has completed the continuing education requirements. **Do not send CE certificates unless requested.** Licensees and certificate holders are required to maintain original certificates for a period of six years. Falsification of any information submitted and/or the failure to complete continuing education requirements may result in disciplinary action by the Committee.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE

Elaine L. DeMars
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Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners
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